The Group comprised representatives of Ministry of Railways, Departments of Coal and Power, Coal India Limited and the Central Electricity Authority.

Delay in implementation of Karnal and Mangalore refinery projects

*472. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to inordinate delay and inefficient implementation of Karnal and Mangalore refinery projects, the refinery capacity of 9 million tonnes, which was earlier expected to be realised by the end of the current plan period is now likely to be available only during the Eighth Plan period; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) Government had proposed during the VI Plan the setting up of two grass root refineries at Karnal and Mangalore. However, during the exercises made for provisions for these projects in the VIIth Plan, it was found that serious resource constraints were coming in the way of taking up these two projects in the public sector. It has therefore been decided to take up these in the joint sector, with suitable private parties.

2. The Karnal Refinery is expected to be commissioned in 1992-93. A detailed project report is being prepared for the Mangalore Refinery. Investment decision on this will be taken after the DPR is ready.

Explosion at industrial explosive manufacturing unit near Cochin

*473. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in thhe Hindustan Times dated the 6th March, 1988 wherein it has been stated that ten women were charred to death when a chemical they were handling at an industrial explosive manufacturing unit near Cochin accidentally exploded;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether any inquiry has since been conducted into the matter and what action has been taken by Government in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGALRAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Ten women were killed in an explosion in a gunpowder/fire-works factory at Kadakoodam in Nadama Village near Thripunithura on 5-3-1988. The pounding and mixing shed of the factory was also raized to the ground.

(c) The accident is being investigated by the Controller of Explosives, Ernakulam under the supervision of the Deputy Chief Controller of Explosives, Madras. The licence granted to the factory for the manufacture of fireworks/gunpowder has been suspended by the Deputy Chief Controller of Explosives, Madras on 7-3-88. The Police have filed a case under the relevant provisions of law.